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STATINTL

Divorce Trial Opens: Wife Crueler Than Russ--U2 Pilot

MILLEDGEVILLE, Ga., Jan. 15.—(UPI)—The divorce trial of Francis Gary Powers opened here today with testimony by the former U2 pilot that his wife was "the only person who ever mistreated me" during the almost two years he was a Soviet prisoner.

POWERS, whose aborted U2 flight over Russia in 1960 touched off an international controversy, is seeking to end his eight-year marriage to Mrs. Barbara Gay Powers. He contends she is an habitual drunk and abused him.

Powers told the story of his shattered marriage to a jury of 12 married men who will decide whether he must pay alimony and make her a property settlement.

POWERS testified that he went for as long as 45 days without a letter from his wife while in the Russian prison camp.

Both Powers, 33, and his pretty wife, 27, testified today. The trial will be continued tomorrow.

Mrs. Powers has filed a counter suit in the divorce action, charging Powers failed to treat her like an average American housewife.

MRS. POWERS, weeping often during the trial, said she was constantly besieged by reporters and representatives of the Central Intelligence Agency after her husband's plane was downed over Russia.

She denied she knew her

husband was on any spy as-

shattered marriage to a jury

signment and charged that

of 12 married men who will

decide whether he must pay

hands without my knowledge.

his wife alimony and make

She charged that her fami-

ly had her declared mentally

incompetent after she refused

to see a psychiatrist and said

went for as long as 45 days

she was admitted to an Au-

without a letter from his wife

while in the Russian prison

camp.

SHE SAID that when her

husband returned to the

United States "he took all his

bitterness out on me." She

denied his charge that she

was an excessive drinker.

"Gary has changed a

great deal," she testified.

"I think he is just void of

all feeling now. All he wants

is his money."

"I didn't marry Gary

Powers for money," she

said. "I married for com-

panionship, love and chil-

dren but I didn't have an

opportunity for that."

She disclosed that she twice

had conceived children but

both cases resulted in mis-

carriages because of "a lack

of medical facilities" in the

places where her husband was

stationed.

MRS. POWERS' attorney,

Robert Green, questioned

Powers about his patriotism,

asking him at one point if he

had ever voted.

Powers replied he had not

and didn't even know who was

vice president while he was

in prison.

But he added however that

the country "made me appreciate this

country quite a bit."